

Johnson indicated that in view of a filed response formally setting forth such comments the claims appear to distinguish over Kobayashi.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 8-17 stand withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected species. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,050,912 to Kobayashi. Claims 5 and 20 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 20.

Addressing the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kobayashi, that rejection is traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejection is not fully considering the positively recited claim limitations. Specifically, independent claim 1, from which the other rejected claims depend, positively recites “wherein a *thrust ratio* between the thrust of the driving pulley and the thrust of the following pulley is determined” and further that “thrust of at least one of the driving pulley and the following pulley is controlled based on a state of change of the *thrust ratio*” (emphasis added). The claims thus recite controlling a *ratio* between two different thrusts, a first thrust provided to a driving pulley and a second thrust provided to a following pulley.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi does not disclose any determination of such a thrust ratio, and of any control based on such a thrust ratio.

In supporting the above-noted rejection the outstanding Office Action cites the teachings in Kobayashi at column 9, lines 36-39, with respect to disclosing a thrust ratio. At that portion Kobayashi states:

The processing including the steps S1 to S5 is repeated at predetermined time intervals. As a result, the *thrust Q* for the pulley increases as the *transmission ratio* becomes lower (larger).

Additionally, concerning a value $(Q \times r)/(T)$ of the relationship among the transmitted torque T, the thrust Q for the pulley and the passed-on radius r of the belt 5, it increases as the transmission ratio becomes larger... (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that the above-noted teachings in Kobayashi differ from the claims as currently written.

More particularly, and as discussed and agreed on during the interview, the portions cited in Kobayashi and noted in the Office Action refer to the thrust Q and a transmission ratio. However, neither disclosure in Kobayashi is directed to a *thrust ratio between a thrust applied to a driving pulley and a thrust applied to a following pulley*. The thrust Q noted in Kobayashi is merely directed to a thrust provided to one pulley, and not to a thrust ratio. Further, the transmission ratio noted in Kobayashi is a completely different ratio than a thrust ratio.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as currently written, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings of Kobayashi.

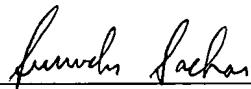
Applicants also note that each of withdrawn claims 8-10 and 20 depend from independent claim 1, i.e. independent claim 1 is generic to those withdrawn claims 8-10 and 20, and thus claims 8-10 and 20 must now be reintroduced.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-10 and 18-20 is allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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